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Original Articles.

THE ASYLUM SUPERINTENDENTS ON THE  
NEEDS OF THE INSANE, WITH STATISTICS  
OF INSANITY IN THE UNITED STATES.\*

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ONE of the first things to do in attempting a reform is to know exactly what evils are to be attacked. I venture, therefore, to offer the Association a contribution to this phase of the problem of insane- asylum reform.

I have obtained recent reports from nearly every asylum in the country, also State documents containing legislative reports from a number of Western States, and approximate census returns for 1880. From these sources, helped by some personal correspondence and interviews, I have collected a good many facts which I have cast in the form of statistical tables. These I place at the disposal of the Association. I shall now only call attention briefly to some of the more important of the points suggested by them.

And first in regard to the *number of insane in the United States*.

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\* Read at the Annual Meeting of the National Association for the Protection of the Insane and the Prevention of Insanity, January 17, 1882.

All estimates of our insane population at present can be only approximate. My own total may be several thousands out of the way. The census statistics have several sources of error, which cannot be entirely eliminated.

I present a table,<sup>1</sup> however, showing that we had in 1880 in round numbers 89,000 (to 96,000)<sup>2</sup> insane, which gives a ratio of 1-570 (1-520) of the population. The census ratio in 1860 was 1-1,310; in 1870, 1-1,100; in 1875, 1-953. Our population increased in the decade 1870 to 1880 about 26 per cent., while our insane population has apparently increased over 100 per cent.

These figures are not very encouraging; but they are such as strongly justify the existence and call for the activity of such an Association as ours.

They should not be given either without some modifying statements. The ratio mentioned is very much less than that of many European countries; for example, England, where it is not far from 1 to 350.<sup>3</sup> Again, this apparent in-

<sup>1</sup>	Insane Popul.	Total Popul.	Ratio.	Insane-Asyl. Pop.	Per cent. in Hosp.
1860	23,999	31,443,321	1-1,310		
1870	37,442 55 per C., increase	38,558,371 22 per C., increase	1-1,100		
1875 Estimated at the same rate of increase as from 1860 to 1870.	44,148	42,115,896	1-953	28,441	55 per c.
1880	89,000 (to 96,000)	50,155,183	1-570 (to 520)	40,000	40 per c.

<sup>1</sup> Through the kindness of the Hon. Justin S. Morrell, U. S. S., I have obtained the approximate estimates of the U. S. census for the total number of insane in the United States, by States. This estimate makes the number between 90,000 and 100,000. Eliminations have to be made, however: (1) because the Census Bureau sent books to the whole medical profession, from whom one series of names was obtained; (2) it got another list from the census enumerators; and (3) a third from the asylums. Many duplicates were thus necessarily made. I have reduced the approximate estimates also for the following reason: In 12 States I obtained estimates of the number of insane from the local authorities (State Boards of Charity, etc.). In these cases, with hardly an exception, the estimate was less than that of the census approximate. If, however, the completed census returns, verified by local censuses, make the number 95,000 or 100,000, it will not affect any inferences to be drawn from my figures, since the distribution of insanity is certainly about as I give it.

<sup>2</sup> In England and Wales in 1859 the ratio was 1-535. In 1880 it was 1-350; in Scotland 1-460. The census of the insane is more accurately taken in these countries than anywhere else in the world.

crease is very largely due to the fact that the insane are being accumulated in asylums, and also that the census of 1870 was extremely imperfect as regards the insane.

The real increase can perhaps be best discovered in Massachusetts. In 1857 Dr. Jarvis, by very careful estimates, made the ratio of insane 1 to 457. In 1880 it was not far

STATE.	Insane Population, U. S. C., 1870.	Insane-Asyl. Popula- tion, 1880.	Estimated Total In- sane Pop., 1880.	Whole Population in 1870.	Proportion of Insane to Sane Population, 1870.	Whole Population in 1880.	Ratio of Insane-Asyl. Popul. to Whole Popul., 1880.	Ratio of Total Insane to Whole Popul., 1880.	Number of Asylums in each State.
Alabama	555	402	1550	906,992	1.796	1,262,344	1-6000	1-850	1
Arkansas	161	—	800	484,471	3.009	802,564	—	1-1000	—
California	1146	1955	2400	560,247	.484	864,686	1-440	1-360	2
Colorado	72	—	100	39,814	3.332	194,649	—	1-2000	—
Connecticut	172	671	1750	537,454	.696	622,683	1-1000	1-355	2
Delaware	65	—	200	125,065	1.923	146,654	—	1-750	—
Florida	29	—	250	187,748	6.474	266,566	—	1-1070	1
Georgia	634	886	1900	1,184,109	1.867	1,538,983	1-2000	1-815	1
Illinois	1625	2655	5100	2,539,891	1.563	3,078,636	1-1200	1-610	4
Indiana	1504	1010	3300	1,680,637	1.117	1,978,358	1-2000	1-595	1
Iowa	742	932	2550	1,194,020	1.609	1,624,463	1-1800	1-635	3
Kansas	131	172	1000	364,399	2.781	995,335	1-6000	1-1000	1
Kentucky	1245	1458	2800	1,321,011	1.052	1,648,599	1-1250	1-600	3
Louisiana	451	285	1000	726,915	1.161	949,263	1-3000	1-940	1
Maine	792	390	1500	626,915	.791	648,945	1-1600	1-432	1
Maryland	733	733	1550	750,894	1.065	935,139	1-1400	1-620	3
Massachusetts	2602	2409	5300	1,457,350	.547	1,783,086	1-405	1-336	6
Michigan	814	1119	2700	1,184,059	1.454	1,634,096	1-1200	1-600	2
Minnesota	302	725	1200	439,706	1.436	780,807	1-1000	1-650	2
Mississippi	245	395	1100	827,922	3.379	1,131,899	1-3200	1-1000	1
Missouri	1263	803	3500	1,721,295	1.362	2,169,091	1-2700	1-620	3
Nebraska	28	193	500	122,993	4.392	452,432	1-2500	1-945	1
Nevada	2	—	30	42,491	21.245	62,265	—	1-2000	—
N. Hampshire	548	302	1000	381,300	.699	347,484	1-1200	1-347	1
New Jersey	918	1192	2500	906,096	.987	1,130,892	1-1050	1-452	2
New York	6553	7566	13,200	4,382,759	.668	5,083,903	1-830	1-390	14
North Carolina	779	300	2000	1,671,361	1.375	1,400,000	1-5000	1-700	1
Ohio	3414	3627	7700	2,665,260	.786	3,197,794	1-1100	1-420	7
Oregon	122	286	350	90,923	.734	174,267	1-626	1-500	1
Pennsylvania	3895	3421	8500	3,521,951	.904	4,282,738	1-900	1-505	7
Rhode Island	312	171	650	217,353	.696	276,528	1-1600	1-423	1
South Carolina	333	420	1150	705,666	2.119	995,706	1-2500	1-865	1
Tennessee	925	377	2000	1,258,320	1.360	1,554,462	1-4000	1-770	1
Texas	270	230	1600	818,579	3.033	1,597,509	1-6500	1-988	1
Vermont	721	447	900	330,551	.458	332,286	1-800	1-320	1
Virginia	1125	1025	2400	1,225,163	1.089	1,512,203	1-1600	1-605	3
West Virginia	374	415	900	442,014	1.182	628,193	1-1500	1-687	1
Wisconsin	840	1175	2600	1,054,670	1.247	1,315,386	1-1100	1-506	3
Arizona	1	—	20	9,658	—	40,440	—	—	—
Dakota	3	36	70	14,181	4.702	135,177	—	—	1
D. of Columbia	479	897	950	1,131,700	.264	177,624	—	1-1900	—
Idaho	1	—	10	—	—	32,610	—	—	—
Montana	2	—	50	26,595	13.297	39,159	—	—	—
Utah	25	—	120	86,786	3.471	143,963	—	—	—
Washington	23	—	130	23,935	1.041	75,116	—	—	1
New Mexico	—	—	150	—	—	119,565	—	—	—
Total	37,500	about 40,000	about 39,000 (The max. est. 96,000)	38,558,321	1.1100	50,155,783		1-570 (The max. est. 1-520)	88

from 1 to 336. In the other New England States the relative increase has been much less.

I present here a complete table showing the ratios in 1870 and 1880 by States; also the insane-asylum population and its ratio.<sup>1</sup>

As regards the *distribution of insanity* and of its *increase*, my statistics show that the proportion of insane is greatest in New England, where the ratio is 1 to 357. Here, however, the rate of increase is undoubtedly becoming slower.

In proportionate number of insane, after the New England and Pacific States, come the Middle States (1 to 446), then the Western (1 to 570), and then the Southern (1 to 780).

In rapidity of increase, however, the Western States come first, and then the Southern States.

As regards

#### ASYLUM ACCOMMODATION

there were, according to Dr. Conrad, in 1875, 62 active State

##### <sup>1</sup> RATIO OF INSANE POPULATION TO ENTIRE POPULATION,

###### FOR THE WHOLE COUNTRY.

In 1860, . . . . .	1-1,310	In 1875, . . . . .	1-953
In 1870, . . . . .	1-1,100	In 1880, . . . . .	1-570 (to 520)

###### FOR THE DIFFERENT SECTIONS.

New England States.		1880	1870.
In 1880—Population, 4,000,000	. . . . .	Ratio, 1-357	1-600
Insane, . . . . .	11,200		
Middle States.		1880.	1870.
In 1880—Population, 11,600,000	. . . . .	Ratio, 1-446	1-800
Insane, . . . . .	25,950		
Southern States.		1880.	1870.
In 1880—Population, 17,400,000	. . . . .	Ratio, 1-780	1-1,600
Insane, . . . . .	29,150		
Western States.		1880.	1870.
In 1880—Population, 14,500,000	. . . . .	Ratio, 1-570	1-1,250
Insane, . . . . .	28,480		
Pacific Coast.		1880.	1870.
In 1880—Population, 1,000,000	. . . . .	Ratio, 1-363	1-484
Insane, . . . . .	2,750		

insane asylums with a capacity for 24,252 patients. These were actually holding 27,600 patients, showing an overcrowding then of 3,358.

In 1881 we had 74 State and 14 large private asylums, with a capacity approximately for 31,900, but holding 39,145. At a very low estimate, therefore, our asylums are overcrowded to the extent of 10,000 patients, while there are about 50,000 who are not in any asylums at all.

The ratio of asylum to non-asylum population is thus nearly 4 to 5. It has usually been considered to be just the reverse, or 5 to 4.

I give a table<sup>1</sup> showing the per cent. of persons who have no asylum accommodation in some of the larger States. I also give a table showing the gradual increase of insane asylums in the United States to their present number<sup>2</sup> (88, with about 10 small private institutions).<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Per cent. of Insane who are not in Asylums, in some of the larger States.*

		Population.
New York,	40 per cent.	3 million
Illinois,	55 "	5 "
Indiana,	50 "	2 "
Iowa,	66 "	1½ "
Kansas,	80 "	1 "
West Virginia,	50 "	¾ "
Texas,	80 "	1½ "
South Carolina,	60 "	1 "
Mississippi,	70 "	—
Arkansas,	100 "	—
Missouri,	75 "	—
New Jersey,	55 "	—

<sup>2</sup> *Growth of Insane Asylums in the United States.*

	State Asylums
1773—1824	1 —
1824—1828	4 5
1828—1839	3 8
1839—1850	6 14
1850—1860	16 30
1860—1870	10 40
1870—1876	22 62
1876—1880	14 74

<sup>3</sup> This does not include a number of small county and city institutions.

There is also a list of the private institutions for the insane with various facts concerning them.<sup>1</sup>

#### AS REGARDS ACCOMMODATION FOR THE INSANE.

While fully aware of the uncertainties of statistics on this subject, I think we may formulate the following as approximately correct :

Our State Legislatures must expect that before many years the New England and Middle States will have an insanity ratio of at least 1 to 350, the Western States 1 to 400 or 500, the Southern States 1 to 500 or 600. *They must provide good asylum accommodation for three fourths of these* if they would do what England does for her insane. Such statements as these make the problem for our Legislatures definite, even if discouraging. We can not yet say whether the ratio of insanity will be less in America than it is in Europe.

#### THE COST OF INSANE ASYLUMS

And of caring for the insane is a matter which appeals to a part of us that humanity does not touch, and I will refer to the main facts briefly.

<sup>1</sup> List of private institutions for insane, compiled by Dr. J. S. Conrad :

NAME OF INSTITUTION.	COUNTY, TOWN, OR CITY IN WHICH LOCATED.	NAME OF SUPERIN- TENDENT.	When opened.	Acres of Land.	Capacity.
<sup>2</sup> 1. Butler Hospital . . .	Providence, R. I. . .	J. W. Sawyer . .	1847	150	170
<sup>2</sup> 2. McLean Hospital . . .	Somerville, Mass. . .	George F. Jelly . .	1818	130	190
<sup>2</sup> 3. Retreat for the Insane . .	Hartford, Conn. . .	H. P. Stearns . .	1824	70	150
<sup>2</sup> 4. Bloomingdale . . .	Manhat'nville, N. Y. .	D. T. Brown . .	1821	—	—
<sup>2</sup> 5. Brigham Hall . . .	Canandaigua, N. Y. .	Geo. Cook . .	1855	100	70
<sup>2</sup> 6. Sandford Hall . . .	Flushing, N. Y. .	J. W. Barstow . .	1841	40	35
<sup>2</sup> 7. Renesslaer Co. Lun'c As'm .	Troy, N. Y. .	— . .	1856	12	110
<sup>2</sup> 8. Friends' Retreat . . .	Philadelphia, Pa. . .	J. Worthington . .	1817	82	100
<sup>2</sup> 9. Penn. Hospital for Insane .	— . .	— . .	1841	113	500
<sup>2</sup> 10. Oregon Hospital for Insane .	East Portland . .	J. C. Hawthorne . .	1862	150	300
<sup>2</sup> 11. Bellevue Place . . .	Batavia, Ill. . .	R. J. Patterson . .	1867	16	25
<sup>2</sup> 12. Oak Lawn . . .	Jacksonville, Ill. . .	A. McFarland . .	1872	90	20
<sup>2</sup> 13. Cincinnati Sanitarium . .	College Hill, Ohio . .	W. S. Chipley . .	1873	18	100
<sup>2</sup> 14. St. Vincent Institution . .	St. Louis . .	J. K. Baudery . .	1858	—	250
<sup>2</sup> 15. Mt. Hope Retreat . . .	Baltimore Co., Md. . .	W. H. Stokes . .	1857	425	300
<sup>2</sup> 16. Marshall Hall . . .	Troy, N. Y. .	J. D. Lomax . .	—	—	—
<sup>2</sup> 17. Spring Hill Institution . .	Litchfield, Conn. . .	H. W. Buel . .	—	—	—
<sup>2</sup> 18. Burn Brae . . .	Kellyville, Pa. . .	R. A. Given . .	—	—	—
<sup>2</sup> 19. Shepherd Asylum . . .	Baltimore Co., Md. . .	— . .	—	—	—

<sup>2</sup> Indicates asylums that are on the general list.

There are also institutions under charge of Dr. Ralph Parsons at Sing Sing, Dr. E. C. Mann at Washington Heights, Dr. ——— at Cromwell, Conn., etc.

We have about \$40,000,000 invested in these institutions, at an average cost of over half a million apiece.

It takes about \$8,000,000 a year to run them, or \$82,000 for each institution, not including interest. If we should add interest the total annual expenditure for the care of the insane amounts to \$12,000,000.

The annual cost<sup>1</sup> per patient has been variously estimated at from \$166 to \$316. The average in 1878 for 55 hospitals, as given by Dr. J. A. Reed, is \$200; by Dr. Hawthorne, for 80 hospitals, in 1878, is \$249. (See tables below and on page 248.)

<sup>1</sup> Table showing the cost per capita in fifty hospitals, during 1878: compiled by Superintendent of Western Pennsylvania Hospital, Dr. Joseph A. Reed:

1	State Lunatic Asylum, Fulton, Mo., . . . . .	\$208 08
2	Oregon Hospital for the Insane, Portland, . . . . .	286 00
3	State Lunatic Asylum, Worcester, Mass., . . . . .	203 32
4	Insane Asylum, State of California, Stockton, . . . . .	155 75
5	Northern Hospital for the Insane, Elgin, Ill., . . . . .	220 60
6	Hospital for the Insane, Lincoln, Neb., . . . . .	217 36
7	Iowa Hospital for the Insane, Mt. Pleasant, . . . . .	192 00
8	Minnesota Hospital for the Insane, . . . . .	169 36
9	State Homoeopathic Asylum, Middletown, N. Y., . . . . .	332 80
10	Hospital for the Insane, Independence, Iowa, . . . . .	192 40
11	St. Louis Insane Asylum, Missouri, . . . . .	194 22
12	Central Kentucky Lunatic Asylum, Anchorage, . . . . .	182 30
13	New York State Lunatic Asylum, Utica, . . . . .	281 50
14	State Lunatic Hospital, Northampton, . . . . .	179 41
15	Pennsylvania State Lunatic Asylum, Harrisburg, . . . . .	232 96
16	State Asylum for the Insane, Morris Plains, N. J. (State patients), . . . . .	234 00
17	Willard Asylum for the Insane, N. Y., . . . . .	162 24
18	Alabama Insane Hospital, Tuscaloosa, . . . . .	167 20
19	New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane, Concord, . . . . .	260 00
20	Lunatic Asylum, Jackson, Miss., . . . . .	170 00
21	Maryland Hospital for the Insane, . . . . .	214 77
22	Tennessee Hospital for the Insane, Nashville, . . . . .	159 87
23	Asylum, Brattleboro, Vermont, . . . . .	180 00
24	State Hospital for the Insane, Danville, Pa., . . . . .	200 72
25	Insane Asylum of North Carolina, Raleigh (some permanent improvements included), . . . . .	232 10
26	State Asylum for Insane Criminals, N. Y., . . . . .	202 43
27	State Lunatic Asylum, St. Joseph, Mo., . . . . .	184 34
28	State Hospital for the Insane, Danvers, Mass., . . . . .	181 63
29	Government Hospital for the Insane, Washington, D. C., . . . . .	223 00
30	Central Hospital for the Insane, Jackson, Ill., . . . . .	206 96
31	Louisiana State Asylum, . . . . .	272 30
32	Western Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, Dixmont, . . . . .	189 28
33	Connecticut Hospital for the Insane, Middletown, . . . . .	195 00
34	South Carolina Lunatic Asylum, Columbus, . . . . .	177 00
35	Maine Insane Hospital, Augusta, . . . . .	162 50
36	Cleveland Asylum for the Insane, Newburg, Ohio, . . . . .	166 63
37	West Virginia Hospital for the Insane, Weston, . . . . .	115 95
38	Eastern Lunatic Asylum, Lexington, Ky., . . . . .	180 00
39	Western Lunatic Asylum, Staunton, Va., . . . . .	141 84
40	Michigan Asylum for the Insane, Lansing, <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	230 80
41	Northern Hospital for the Insane, Oshkosh, Wis., <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	220 00
42	Western Kentucky Lunatic Asylum, Hopkinsville, Ky., <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	167 89
43	Illinois Southern Hospital for the Insane, Anna, <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	203 66
44	Dayton Asylum for the Insane, Ohio, <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	194 59
45	Columbus Asylum for the Insane, Ohio, <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	237 80
46	State Lunatic Asylum, Taunton, <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	215 13
47	Wisconsin State Hospital, Madison, <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	237 47
48	State Lunatic Asylum, Texas, <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	189 73
49	Eastern Lunatic Asylum, Williamsburg (1879), . . . . .	148 94
50	Central Lunatic Asylum, Richmond, . . . . .	171 23
		<hr/>
		\$9,772 77
Average, . . . . .		<hr/>
		\$199, 44

<sup>2</sup> Per capita, taken from reports.

We now come to the question of what are the

### NEEDS OF OUR ASYLUMS

as depicted by their officers. I do not propose to discuss them, but simply to state what deficiencies are acknowledged and what improvements are called for.

First of all, the want of more room is the universal cry.

In twenty-nine reports new asylums or larger buildings are desired, in many cases urgently demanded.

In only 12 States out of the 38 was there no request for greater accommodation.

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#### COST OF INSANE.

According to Dr. Conrad, in 1875, 55 *State insane hospitals* cost \$29,879,258 ; 1 cost \$543,249. Upon this basis 88 would cost \$44,000,000. Or, estimating it another way, the per capita cost is in 55 asylums \$1,074. For 40,000 persons this would amount to \$40,000,000, a sum representing the amount of money now invested in insane asylums.

The *average* cost of maintenance per asylum per annum is estimated to be \$32,819, which for 88 asylums would amount to \$7,040,000, add to this the interest on buildings and the amount would be \$12,000,000 as the total annual expense.

The *per capita* cost of maintenance per annum is \$260,65, or adding interest, \$316.63. This is a later and higher estimate by Dr. J. C. Hawthorne, of Oregon Hospital. Dr. J. S. Conrad, of Maryland Hospital, gives \$161 and \$249, as shown above. And table showing cost of 80 asylums (14 private) compiled by Dr. J. C. Hawthorne, Portland, Oregon, for the year 1878, is appended.

Total cost for construction in 80 asylums,	\$30,403,875 00
Total number of patients intended to be accommodated,	25,415
Average cost of construction for each patient,	\$1,253 50
Average cost of maintenance per capita, per annum, in asylums in United States, exclusive of interest,	\$260 65
Average cost of maintenance per capita, per annum, in asylums in United States, inclusive of interest,	\$316 03
Average cost of maintenance per capita, per week, in asylums in United States, inclusive of interest,	\$6 08

N. B.—In the cost of maintenance, given above, the salaries of officers and the cost of clothing and fuel are in some instances included, in some excluded. In the cost of asylums, the cost of land is in a few cases included, in most excluded. The interest is computed on the basis of the number to be accommodated, and in some cases the asylums mentioned contain more patients than their quota, in others less ; so that, while in those containing more, the per capita interest would be less ; the reverse of this holds equally good, and when all the institutions are considered, the average will be about as given in the table. In some asylums the cost of maintenance probably includes the cost of buildings, etc., the patients being kept for so much, every thing included. This is the case with this asylum (the Oregon Hospital for the Insane), where buildings, furniture, and every thing else necessary to the outfitting and running of an asylum is furnished by the contractor, the State paying \$286 per patient, per year, to cover all expenses. The per capita cost is less than Dr. Hawthorne mentions, because the asylums are crowded.



The condition in some of the Southern States is particularly distressing. In South Carolina hardly one third of the insane can be cared for in the single State hospital. In Georgia 50 applicants were turned away in 1879; the same was the case in Mississippi, where the law is so framed that chronic cases cannot be discharged to make way for the acute. Florida has only an apology for an asylum building; Arkansas, a State with nearly a million of inhabitants, has *no asylum whatever*, though I am informed that one is now building. The superintendent of the single Texas asylum has been obliged to use a printed letter of rejection because surplus applicants for admission are so numerous. His asylum holds only one fifth of the State insane. Alabama has a population of a million and a quarter, Texas and Georgia of over a million and a half, yet none of these States has more than one asylum. It is true that there are fewer insane proportionately in the South, partly because of the preponderance of the colored race, who are, it is said, not so subject to insanity.<sup>1</sup> Yet the importunities of the few medical superintendents there show how negligent these States are.

In the West the story is much the same, but some of the larger States are investigating the matter, and are earnestly urging reform. This is notably the case in Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin. There are many in these States who have arrived at this stage at least—that the evils are seen and appreciated. They have yet to go through the labor of affecting public sentiment and the public legislature.

The condition of the non-asylum insane in the South and West is about what it was ten years ago in this State. The insane are miserably kept in jails, almshouses, and on poor-

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<sup>1</sup> Religion is said to be the chief cause of insanity among the Southern negroes, and it is a form of the disease very hard to cure.

farms, etc. I could recite some pitiable stories of the manner in which this class is treated, but it would be aside from my purpose. We know that by this process the curable insane are often made incurable and a permanent expense to society.

I have a list of other demands made by the superintendents.

A number of them urge the *separation of the acute and chronic insane*, either in different asylums or in detached buildings. I have a note of nine States in which this request was made by one or more superintendents (Virginia, South Carolina, Ohio, New Hampshire, Maine, Kansas, Iowa, Georgia, Alabama).

A separate *asylum for insane criminals* becomes a necessity in large States. Yet it is lacking almost universally. It is asked for in such states as Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Missouri, New Jersey, Ohio.

A separate *asylum for epileptics* is also needed and asked for in New York, Illinois, Iowa, and Ohio.

In a number of the Southern States separate buildings or *asylums for the colored insane* are desired.

*Improvements in the law of commitments* are necessary, according to the superintendents of the Illinois, Indiana, and Kansas asylums. Thus, in Kansas, a person alleged to be insane has to be tried by a jury before he can be committed.

The *lack of sufficient work and amusement* is an evil that exists still in a large number of American asylums. This may be seen in the indifference to the subject shown in many reports, as well as in the records given. Measuring these records by those of Continental and English asylums, we can see that some of the superintendents are much to blame for not utilizing what means they have.

In some States, however, the asylums are so miserably provided with money and grounds that little can really be

done. This is the case in Mississippi and Louisiana, for example. In the latter State the only outlet for the patients' physical energy or mental disquietude is to make bricks. In many large asylums closer home pitiful sums of one or two hundred dollars are all that is allowed annually for amusements. In Virginia, Tennessee, Maryland, California, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, New York, and other States, the authorities are appealed to for opportunity to give the insane more work, exercise, and amusement.

The *question of restraint* of the insane I shall not take up. Concerning it there is only this to be said as regards the superintendents' reports: It will strike one in reading them that their authors do not treat the subject fairly and candidly. Their discussions are not discussions, but arguments to show that non-restraint may do in some places but not in that special State or institution. There are a few notable exceptions to this; indeed the time is passing by, I hope, when one can refer to the American asylum superintendents as representing a single set of conservative opinions, or as the stolid exponents of "Philistinism" in psychiatry.

The number of medical men connected with the insane asylums of this country is, in round numbers, 300. This gives a proportion of about 1 to 133 patients. This proportion is very unevenly distributed, however. I have a table<sup>1</sup> showing the proportion and number in the different States and asylums.

1 PROPORTION OF MEDICAL MEN TO PATIENTS.									
Ky.,	.	.	.	1-200	N. Y.,	.	.	.	1-35 B. p.
Kan.,	.	.	.	1-40	"	.	.	.	1-110 W. I.
La.,	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	1-30 H. H.
Me.,	.	.	.	1-200	"	.	.	.	1-200 B. I.
Md.,	.	.	.	1-170	"	.	.	.	1-250 Wil.
Mass.,	.	.	.	1-200	"	.	.	.	1-70 Aub.
"	.	.	.	1-112	P. Earle.	"	.	.	1-120 Utica
"	.	.	.	1-50	p.	N. Y.,	.	.	1-140 Fiatb.
Mich.,	.	.	.	1-125	Ohio,	.	.	.	1-100
Minn.,	.	.	.	1-300	"	.	.	.	1-140
Miss.,	.	.	.	1-200	"	.	.	.	1-170
Mo.,	.	.	.	1-150	"	.	.	.	1-140
Neb.,	.	.	.	1-80	Oreg.,	.	.	.	1-90
N. J.,	.	.	.	1-200	Penn.,	.	.	.	1-60 Kirk.
"	.	.	.	1-180	"	.	.	.	1-120
N. H.,	.	.	.	1-90	"	.	.	.	1-200

There are unquestionably many asylums where the medical staff should be increased, and in some (Md.) this increase is asked for. The

### EVILS OF POLITICS

in connection with asylum management is a subject earnestly dwelt upon in Ohio and Kentucky. It is a subject that must be touched upon gently in an asylum report, however, and I did not find it discussed except in the States mentioned. At the meeting of the Kentucky State Medical Society last year the matter was brought up and made the subject of very earnest debate.

*The number of deaths by suicide or homicide*, when excessive, is an indication of defective management. In 57 asylums there occurred in one year 36 deaths by suicide. These were distributed among 24 asylums, so that some averaged two, or even three in the year.

Other statistics collected by me show that among 13,594 deaths occurring in 146 years in American asylums, there were 124 deaths by suicide. This is a little less than one per-cent. (.9) on the total mortality. A death by suicide occurs in an insane asylum of average size once in about every year and a half.

The number of persons who enter asylums with suicidal impulses is given variously as being from 15 to 25 per cent. on the admissions.

Those who enter with homicidal impulses are much

Penn.,	.	.	.	1-140	Va.,	.	.	.	1-100
R. I.,	.	.	.	1-80	"	.	.	.	1-100
S. C.,	.	.	.	1-140	W. Va.,	.	.	.	1-200
Tenn.,	.	.	.	1-180	Wash.,	.	.	.	1-225
Tex.,	.	.	.	1-115	Wis.,	.	.	.	1-125
Vt.,	.	.	.	1-140	"	.	.	.	1-170
Va.,	.	.	.	1-100					

Total number of doctors, 291, for 40,000  
1 to 138

In private asylums it is below 1-100.

In the best public institutions it is below 1-150 (except where they are for chronic cases).

There are, however, asylums where the ratio is 1-200 in Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Maine, Minnesota (1 to 300), Mississippi, New Jersey, New York (Blackwell's Island and Willard), West Virginia, Washington.

fewer in number. I found the record of only one homicide in 57 asylums in one year.

The total mortality rate varies between 5 and 10 per cent.

There are a number of minor points which are more or less dwelt upon in these reports. One of these is the subject of *insufficient attendants*. In the best asylums the proportion of attendants is from 1 to 5 to 1 to 10. In many American asylums it is 1 to 20 or over. In a few asylums this lack of attendants is complained of.

Measures for protection against fire, better heating, drainage, and water supply, and a separate hospital for the sick are things frequently dwelt upon.

STATES AND ASYLUMS.	Number of Patients at end of year.	STATES AND ASYLUMS.	Number of Patients at end of year.
1.—ALABAMA. Alabama Ins. Hosp., Tuskaloosa, 1880.	409	4.—GEORGIA. State Ins. Asy., Mil- ledgeville, 1880 .	886
ARKANSAS. No insane asylums .		5.—ILLINOIS. Eastern Hosp. for Ins., Kankakee, 1880 .	96
2.—CALIFORNIA. State Ins. Asy. Stock- ton, 1879-80 .	1116	Central Hosp. for Ins., Jacksonville, 1880 .	633
State Asy. for the Ins., Napa, 1880 . . .	839	Southern Ins. Hosp., Anna, 1880 .	501
COLORADO.	60	Northern Hosp. for Ins., Elgin, 1880 .	525
3.—CONNECTICUT. State Lun. Asy., Mid- dletown, 1881 .	528	6.—INDIANA. Hosp. for Ins., Indian- apolis, 1880 . . .	1010
Retreat for Ins., Hart- ford, 1880 . . .	143	7.—IOWA. Hosp. for the Ins., In- dependence, 1879 .	450
		Hosp. for the Ins., Mount Pleasant, 1878-79 . . . .	482

STATES AND ASYLUMS.	Number of Patients at end of year.	STATES AND ASYLUMS.	Number of Patients at end of year.
8.—KANSAS. State Ins. Asy., Osawatamie. Topeka, 1880 . . . .	172	14.—MICHIGAN. Mich. State Board of Correction and Charities, Ionia, 1879-80. Mich. Ins. Asy., Lansing, 1879-80 . .	443 657
9.—KENTUCKY. Central Asy., Anchorage, 1880 . . . . Western Asy., Hopkinsville, 1880 . . . . Eastern Ins. Asy., Lexington . . . .	402 446 550	15.—MINNESOTA. Minnesota Hosp. for Insane, St. Peters, 1880 . . . . Rochester, 1880 . .	612 113
10.—LOUISIANA. State Ins. Asy., New Orleans, 1877 . .	194	16.—MISSISSIPPI. State Ins. Asy., Jackson, 1879-80 . . . .	395
11.—MAINE. Maine Ins. Hosp., Augusta, 1880 . .	390	17.—MISSOURI. State Lun. Asy., No. 1, Fulton, 1878-79-80 State Lun. Asy., St. Joseph, 1879-80 . . St. Vincent's Hosp., St. Louis, 1876 . . . .	507 159 137
12.—MARYLAND. Mount Hope Retreat, Baltimore, 1879 . . Maryland Hosp. for the Ins., Baltimore, 1880 . . . .	370 362	18.—NEBRASKA. Hosp. for the Ins., Lincoln, 1879-80 . . . .	193
13.—MASSACHUSETTS. State Asy. for Ins., Danvers, 1880 . . State Asy. for Ins., Northampton, 1880 State Lun. Asy., Worcester, 1879 . . . . State Lun. Hosp., Taunton, 1879 . . Boston Lun. Hosp., Boston, 1880 . . . . McLean's Hosp. Mass., 1880 . . . .	604 446 490 559 153 154	19.—NEW HAMPSHIRE. Asylum for Ins., Concord, 1878 . . . .  20.—NEW JERSEY. State Asy. for the Ins., Morristown, 1880 . . State Lun. Hosp., Trenton, 1879 . .	272  586 506

STATES AND ASYLUMS.	Number of Patients at end of year.	STATES AND ASYLUMS.	Number of Patients at end of year.
21.—NEW YORK.		25.—PENNSYLVANIA.	
New York Hosp., Bloomingdale, 1880	214	Hosp. for the Ins., Danville, 1877-78	360
Asy. for the Ins., Wards' Island, 1879	1096	Western Penn. Hosp. for the Ins., Duxmont, 1880	598
Hosp. for the Ins., Brigham Hall, Canandaigua, 1880	63	State Lun. Asy., Harrisburg, 1879	426
State Homœp. Asy. for the Ins., Middletown, 1878	128	Hosp. for the Ins., Kirkbride, 1880	356
Hudson River State Hosp., Poughkeepsie, 1879	254	Penn. Almshouse	766
Lunatic Asy., Blackwell's Island, 1877	1367	Asy. for Relief of Persons Deprived of Reason	100
Asy. for Ins., Willard, 1879	1502		
State Asy. for Ins. Criminals, Auburn, 1880	149	26.—RHODE ISLAND.	
Marshall Infirmary, Troy, 1878	343	Butler's Hosp. for Ins., Providence, 1880	171
State Lun. Hosp., Utica, 1879	620		
Buffalo Asy., 1881	156	27.—SOUTH CAROLINA.	
Kings County, Flatbush, 1881	868	South Carolina Ins. Asy., Columbia, 1879-80	420
Sanford Hall, Flushing	30		
		28.—TENNESSEE.	
22.—NORTH CAROLINA.		Hosp. for the Insane, 1881	377
State Asy., Raleigh	300		
		29.—TEXAS.	
23.—OHIO.		State Asy. for Insane, Austin, 1877	230
Dayton Asy. for the Ins., Dayton, 1878	567		
Longview Asy., Carthage, 1880	660	30.—VERMONT.	
Col. Hosp. for the Ins., Columbus, 1880	894	Asy. for the Insane, Brattleboro, 1880	447
Athens Hosp. for the Ins., Athens, 1879	571		
Asy. for the Ins., Newburg, 1879	606	31.—VIRGINIA.	
		Central Lun. Asy. for Colored Ins., Richmond, 1878-79	223
24.—OREGON.		Western Lun. Asy., Staunton, 1879-80	479
Insane Asylum, Salem, 1878	360	Eastern Lun. Asy. for Ins., Richmond, 1879	323

STATES AND ASYLUMS.	Number of Patients at end of year.	STATES AND ASYLUMS.	Number of Patients at end of year.
31.—Washington. Government Hosp. for the Ins., Washing- ton, 1880 . . .	897	DAKOTA TER. Yankton . . .	36
32.—WEST VIRGINIA. Hospital for Insane, Wheeling, 1877-78 .	415	IDAHO.	There were 51 in these three Territories in 1870.
33.—WISCONSIN. Northern Hosp. for the Ins., Madison, 1880. State Hosp. for the Ins., Madison, 1880. Milwaukee County Asy., 1881 . . .	489 586 100	MONTANA.	
		UTAH.	

I refer lastly to the *general character of the asylum reports.*

There are now too many able men at the head of asylums to justify any sweeping statements as to the cheap character of these documents. Besides, there are in almost every case evidences that the superintendent is making an earnest effort to do his duty.

What, as a medical man, one would criticise most, is the absence of the scientific spirit in the gentlemen who are the authors. To run an asylum on an economic basis is something, but it is not all. There is a science, known as psychiatry. We have in this country three hundred gentlemen who have almost exclusive opportunities of studying it upon their forty thousand patients. But they, as a rule, contribute nothing of real scientific value to our literature. Such a thing as this is unparalleled in any other civilized country or in any other medical specialty. It is for this reason that the medical profession takes a more than



humanitarian interest in the care and treatment of the insane, and in the present movement for its reform.

This absence of scientific work is not always and entirely the superintendent's fault. Asylums are poorly equipped ; in some States it is worth his position for an officer to ask the Legislature for a microscope or a laboratory. But when we find one report used in the expounding of phrenology, another in pleading eloquently for 20,000 raspberry bushes, another which seems infused solely with the warm hope that the Legislature will furnish a new boiler, another which happily informs us of the agricultural antagonism between squashes and witch-grass, and a number of others which simply contain the praise of the Lord in a quarter of a column—and then the statistics,—when we read the not infrequent reports of this kind, it is perhaps reasonable to enter a protest. It seems but fair to expect that the reports should show that their authors are not only good superintendents but earnest and studious physicians. And such evidence I have not always found.